



Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Elko Combined Narcotics Unit (E.C.N.U.)

October 2, 2006

Elko Narcotics Task Force Bust Local Residents for Drug Trafficking and Possession

“Stash house” discovered with hidden compartment for meth storage and packaging

Elko, NV~ On Wednesday September 26th, 2006, the Elko Police Department responded to 1625 Clarkson, Unit 18 in Elko and arrested 26-year old Alejandro (Alex) Apodaca for domestic violence. During the call, officers discovered what appeared to be a drug pipe, so they requested the assistance of the Elko Combined Narcotics Unit (E.C.N.U.) task force. E.C.N.U. discovered a quarter pound of Methamphetamine (113 grams) and scales. Drug pipes and a loaded handgun were also found near a children’s play area. The Task Force added the charges of Level III Trafficking in Methamphetamine, two counts of Child Endangerment, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and an Ex-Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Total bail was set to over \$62,000.00, which Apodaca immediately posted for his release.

On Thursday September 27th, 2006, the Task Force followed up with a search warrant on a safe and a vehicle belonging to Apodaca that a drug canine alerted to, however, no seizeable amounts of drugs were found. Further information led to another search warrant being served at 1809 Winchester Drive unit #2, in Elko, belonging to 28-year old Justi Nikole Gowin. Information confirmed that Apodaca and other reported co-conspirators used this residence as a “stash house” for storing and packaging Methamphetamine and then hiding it in a compartment under the carpet in the closet floor. Task force members discovered a small amount of marijuana, prescription pills without a prescription, a marijuana drug pipe, and several Methamphetamine pipes. The hidden compartment had plastic containers inside with residual powder that flashed positive for Methamphetamine when the drug test kit was used. Also found was a bag loaded with ammunition and handguns sitting on top of the hidden compartment.

There were four children in the residence at the time the search warrant was served. Apodaca and one of his “reported” co-conspirators showed up to the residence while officers were serving the warrant, but they were denied entry. Gowin was charged with Possession of Marijuana Less Than an Ounce, Possession of Controlled Substance Without a Prescription, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and several counts of Child Endangerment. Her total bail was set at \$11,160. This investigation is ongoing and further arrests are expected.

E.C.N.U. is comprised of members of the Elko, Carlin, West Wendover Police Departments; Elko County Sheriff’s Department, and Nevada Department of Public Safety - Investigation Division. For more information on this case, please contact Sgt. Craig Ronzone at (775) 340-2152.

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